

Ravalli County Weed District

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WEED BOARD MEETING ON 12/9/08

Members present: Lance Brown, Tim Tackes, Sherry Lee, Randy Maxwell, Gil Gale, and Kellieann Morris.
Others present: Melissa Maggio, and Shane Arnott.

Minutes: The minutes from the 11/14/08 meeting were emailed to all board members. Randy motioned to approve and Sherry seconded the minutes from 11/14/08 as is. Board approved.

Board Reports: No board reports.

Forest Service Report: Gil reported that RAC funding pot is good. They are working the agenda of the next interagency meeting which will probably be in late January or February. Gil requested that any priority items the board may have for the county, could be put on the agenda of this meeting.

Education Report: Melissa discussed her report and was attached with the coordinators report.

Coordinator's Report: Kellie read her coordinators report and copies were handed out along with the education report.

Old Business:

- **Mid Year Budget Report:** – Kellie passed out a current budget report to the board members and went over the budget lines. Overall we are at 45% to date. A couple of line items Kellie need to check on such as 'Purchased Services'. Lance asked what was in CIP which was \$7879.01.
- **Meeting Reminder w/ commissioners** – The meeting concerning boards and conflict of interest is on 12-16 at 10:00.

New Business:

- **RAC Grant proposal / concrete slab:** – Kellie stated that one of the RAC grants Melissa is writing is to put a green house on the concrete slab at the weed district building. Melissa described her grant proposal for the "Bitterroot Restoration Volunteers" (based on the Prairie Keepers program in Missoula) and a greenhouse will be needed to house rescued native plants and to propagated and grow native plants from seed. Gil commented that the commercial value of plugs is a dollar a plant and the success rate of revegetation with plugs compared to seed is very high. Sherry and Lance were concerned and asked about our time commitment to maintain this which Melissa answered that community volunteers and the bio-control students will be doing much of the work with the plants. Gil added that we could grow live noxious weeds for demonstration purposes as long as they are not allowed to go to seed. Melissa also stated that we could also tap into the university internships, other high schools and maybe Job Corp. Tim commented that it was worth pursuing and Lance followed that it is not a bad idea but just concerned about the time.
- **New Subdivisions / Gravel Pits** – None
- **Any other new business:** - Lance and Tim re-applied for their seats and no one else applied.
 - Randy asked about trying to upgrade one of our spray trucks and Kellie responded that we were working on getting the Ford and GMC fixed up and then re-visit the issue.
 - Kellie asked for ideas concerning the county road dept. and how they could put some of their extra money to work fighting noxious weeds. Kellie thought she would approach them with the idea of putting a wash station on each of their trucks. Gil commented that maybe we should just get them to put a wash station in their yard and get them used to washing their equipment. He also suggested that RAC may be willing to look a cost share for a wash station. Lance feels that the road dept. should add soil and re-vegetate some of the road sides. Kellie also felt that we should take over the roadside mowing so it can be used as a weed management tool. However it was brought up that it was a headache to deal with because of all the calls we already get for mowing overgrown roadsides and we do not have the facility, manpower or budget to complete that work.
 - Kellie let the board know about the MWCA conference in Billings Jan 13th – 15th and if any of them would like to attend to let her know so she can get them registered.
- **Public Input:** - None.

The 2nd Tuesday in January conflicts with the MWCA conference.

The next board meeting will start at 6:00 to accommodate the discussion and update of the Ravalli County Weed Plan.

Next meeting will be January 6th at 6:00 pm in the extension office meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,

Shane Arnott

Meeting rescheduled for 1/20/09

Approved 1/20/09